

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 CIAE-00

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R 271523Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9186

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

SALT GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, PARM, UN, GW, SW, MOPS, XJ, XF, CY

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - SEPT 25 - 27

1. HIGHLIGHTS:

-- U.S.-RELATED ITEMS ARE MODERATE IN VOLUME, GENERALLY
NEGATIVE IN TONE.

-- PRAVDA SEPT 25 CARRIED LONG OUTLINE, MOST COMPLETE
WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE, AND ASSESSMENT OF EAST AND WEST POSITIONS
IN MBFR BY "V. VIKTOROV" (POSSIBLY VLADIMIR VIKTOROVICH SHUSTOV
OF MFA'S IO DIVISION). ARGUMENT IS THAT EAST HAS MADE SUB-
STANTIAL CONCESSIONS -- ACCEPTANCE OF TWO STAGES, AND TABLING
OF DATA-- AND BALL IS IN NATO COURT. WEST, IN CONTRAST,
IS DESCRIBED AS STILL TRYING FOR UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES,
REFUSING TO COMMIT WESTERN EUROPEAN FORCES TO REDUCE
AND DEMANDING LARGER CUTS BY EAST THAN BY WEST.
VIKTROV WARNS THAT THOSE IN WEST WHO THINK EAST WILL TRY
FOR AGREEMENT "AT ANY COST," EVEN GOING AGAINST THEIR
OWN SECURITY INTERESTS, ARE "DEEPLY MISTAKEN". ARTICLE
ENDS ON UPBEAT NOTE, SEEING "GOOD POSSIBILITIES" FOR
SETTLEMENT IF ALL PARTICIPANTS HAVE "GOOD WILL" AND STRIVE
FOR AGREEMENT. (SEE DAO SEPT 26, NOTAL)

-- SERIES OF STORIES ON FRG AND NEXT WEEK'S ELECTION DOT
WEEKEND PRESS. PRAVDA AND KZ SEPT 25 EXPLAIN BREZHNEV
VISIT IN SACCHARINE TERMS ALREADY SEEN--GOOD NEIGHBORLY
RELATIONS AND FURTHERING SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND OVERALL
EUROPEAN SITUATION. AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK
COLUMN IN SEPT 26 PRAVDA CITES BREZHNEV VISIT AS FURTHER PROOF
THAT SOVIETS HAVE INITIATIVE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. ELECTION
SUMMARY "ONE WEEK BEFORE ELECTIONS" IN KZ SEPT 26 PUMPS
FOR SDP AND EASTERN POLICY AND SLAPS AT CDU-CSU (AND
STRAUSS) FOR ADVOCATING "TOUGH COURSE" WITH GDR AND
EAST.

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-- DISARMAMENT COMMENTS FOCUS ON UNFOLDING UNGA AND
WRAP-UP OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE FOR ENDING ARMS RACE.
PRAVDA SEPT 25 REPORTS ON UNGA AGENDA WITH DISARMAMENT
HEADING LIST OF MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS. MDW AND CTB
SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIFIC MENTION. INTERNATIONAL WEEK
COLUMN IN PRAVDA ON SEPT 26 ALSO CITES SAME TWO ITEMS AS
SOVIET INITIATIVES IN UNGA. NUF CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.

ALSO ON DISARMAMENT, COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION IN MADRID FEATURED CHAIRMAN OF SUPREME SOVIET'S COUNCIL OF UNION SHITIKOV'S SPEECH CALLING FOR END OF ARMS RACE, AND SHITIKOV INCLUDED PLUG FOR WORLD NUF TREATY.

-- COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN SEPT 26 PRAVDA PUTS BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON SWEDISH ELECTION RESULTS BY NOTING THAT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS PLAYED AGAINST "WORKERS PARTIES (SD AND CP) AS THEY MADE CONCESSIONS TO "BOURGEOIS PARTIES". HOWEVER, "IMPORTANT FACTOR" IS THAT SDS AND CP RETAINED SUPPORT OF WORKING CLASSES AND, HENCE, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN INTERNAL POLITICS OF SWEDEN.

-- ON YUGOSLAVIA, PRESS PLAY ON ALIYEV VISIT AND FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF BREZHNEV 1971 VISIT IS MODERATE IN VOLUME, BUT EXCEPTIONALLY SUNNY IN TONE. BELGRADE TASS REPORT ON CVETKOVIC-ALIYEV TOASTS IN IZVESTIYA (SEPT 24) STRESSES TITO-BREZHNEV ROLES, NOTES THAT TWO COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS ARE, ACCORDING TO ALIYEV, "CLOSE OR CONVERGENT". COMMEMORATION OF 1971 VISIT BY DOMAGATSKIY IN PRAVDA (SEPT 25) HIGHLIGHTS COMMON ALLEGIANCE TO "SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM" AND MARXIST TEACHINGS AND BREZHNEV-TITO MEETINGS IN 1973 AND AT HELSINKI AND BERLIN, WHOSE RESULT WAS "TO STRENGTHEN THAT ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD WILL AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRATERNAL COUNTRIES." DOMAGATSKIY ALSO SAYS PRINCIPLES OR RELATIONSHIP WERE "STRENGTHENED IN THE BELGRADE DECLARATION OF 1955 AND THE MOSCOW STATEMENT AND DECLARATION OF 1956."

-- ON POLAND, SEPT 25 IZVESTIYA CARRIES FIRST OBLIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCE WE HAVE SEEN IN SOVIET MEDIA TO DIRECT BROAD-GAUGE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN USSR AND KATOWICE PLANT IN WARSAW ITEM BY CORRESPONDENT ERMOLOVICH, WHO WRITES "IT IS FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAJOR RAILWAY STATION WHICH WILL RECEIVE ORE TRAINS FROM THE SOVIET UNION BY SPECIAL TRANSPORT (TRANSPORTIROVOCHNAYA) LINE."

-- ON AFRICA, CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S TRIP REMAINS CRITICAL AFTER UNUSUAL LULL SEPT 23-24. HEAVIEST COMMENT IN SEPT 24 IZVESTIYA "INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARY" BY B. PILYATSKIN AND KZ DEPT 25 ARTICLE BY V. YORDONSKIY TITLED "THEY ARE SAVING THE RACISTS." PRAVDA SEPT 26 "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" BY T. KOLESNICHENKO CONTAINS CRITICAL COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S TRIP AND U.S. GOALS. PRAVDA SEPT 27 HAS TASS DAKAR ARTICLE CITING CRITICAL COMMENTS

BY SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY ISHONGO. WHILE THERE
IS NO CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF FIVE AFRICAN PRESIDENT'S
COMMUNIQUE ON SMITH STATEMENT, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA SEPT 27
HAS ARTICLE BY V. KRYUKOV WHICH CLAIMS PRESIDENTS "RE-
JECTED U.S.-BRITISH PLAN." WEEKLY NOVOYE VREMYA (SEPT 24)
HAS SHORT CRITICAL ARTICLE BY T. YUR'YEV.

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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--WEEKEND TV SAW TWO CRITICAL PRESENTATIONS: SEPT 26
"INTERNATIONAL PANORAMA" FEATURING AUTHORITATIVE
IZVESTIYA POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ALEKSANDR BOVIN AND
SEPT 25 "VREMYA" NEWS PROGRAM FEATURING HARDLINE SOVIET
RADIO-TV COMMENTATOR ALEKSANDR DRUZHININ. (ALL OF
ABOVE SEPTELS.)

-- PRAVDA AND KZ SEPT 26 REPORT THAT ANGOLAN PRESIDENT
NETO WILL VISIT SOVIET UNION IN "BEGINNING OF OCTOBER".

-- CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF LEBANESE EVENTS CENTERS ON
POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND ACTIONS RELATED TO ACCESSION
OF PRESIDENT SARKIS. PRAVDA SEPT 27 MENTIONS JUMBLATT
ARRIVAL IN CAIRO. PRAVDA SEPT 26 "INTERNATIONAL WEEK"
COLUMN PROFESSES TO SEE A "RAY OF HOPE" IN LEBANON SITUA-
TION.

-- PRAVDA SEPT 27 HAS A FAVORABLE TASS DAMASCUS REPORT ON
ASAD'S SPEECH TO SOLDIERS FACING ISRAELI BORDER. ASAD
REPORTEDLY CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN-ISREALI SINAI AGREEMENT,
OPPOSES SYRIAN PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS AND
DESCRIBES SYRIA'S MOTIVATION FOR LEBANESE MOVE INTO
LEBANON (MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER AND WRECK THE PLOTS
AGAINST "OUR PEOPLE AND THE ARAB NATION"). UNFORTUNATELY,
HE SAID, SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE FALLEN INTO A TRAP.
PRAVDA ARTICLE DID NOT EXPLAIN LAST REMARK.

-- PRAVDA SEPT 26 HAS FAVORABLE TASS CAIRO ARTICLE ON PROGRAM OF
NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE (LEFT) ORGANIZATION OF
ASU.

-- KZ SEPT 26 HAS TASS WASHINGTON ARTICLE ON SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE REJECTION OF ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL
TO SELL 650 MAVERICKS TO SAUDI ARABIA.

-- PRAVDA SEPT 27 PICKS UP ARTICLE IN NICOSIA NEWSPAPER
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MARAVGHI WHICH USES RECENT VOTE ON INCLUSION OF CYPRUS ITEM ON UN AGENDA TO CONTRAST POSITIVE SOVIET POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS WITH NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF U.S., FRG, AND U.K.

-- NOVOYA VREMYA CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY ST. LEVCHENKO ON JAPAN WRAPPING TOGETHER DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH "ANTI-SOVIET NOISE". THE JAPANESE REFUSAL TO RETURN THE "SOVIET PLANE" AND ITS PILOT SERVES THOSE WHO WANT TO "WARM THEIR HANDS OVER THIS INCIDENT," SAYS LEVCHENKO.

2. U.S.

-- PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK COMMENTARY (SEPT 26), BY TOMAS KOLESNICHENKO, FEATURES POSITIVE WESTERN PRESS REPLAYS ON THE BREZHNEV-HARRIMAN MEETING, INCLUDING REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV'S REPORTED STATEMENT UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE MOSCOW ATTACHES TO IMPROVING SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS.

--THE SAME COMMENTARY REPORTS THAT BOTH THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE BETTER SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT CAMPAIGN RHETORIC WILL NOT DAMAGE THE POST-ELECTION PROSPECTS.

--THE U.S. MILITARY BUDGET, HOWEVER, COMES IN FOR PREDICTABLE CRITICISM IN KOLESNICHENKO'S COMMENTARY, AND IN A FULLER ARTICLE B A. KRIVOPALOV IN IZVESTIYA (SEPT 25). IN ADDITION KZ (SEPT 26) DENOUNCES U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET IN ARTICLE PEGGED TO NATO'S AUTUMN FORGE MANEUVERS.

--SECDEF RUMSFELD GETS CRITICIZED IN IZVESTIYA (SEPT 25) AND KZ AND PRAVDA (SEPT 26) FOR PROMOTING ARMS RACE WITH "RECORD" DEFENSE BUDGET AND FOR ANNOUNCEMENT (TO UPI) OF NEW GENERATION MISSILE TO REPLACE MINUTEMAN, MX MOBILE ICBM. SECDEF RAPIDLY GAINING STATUS AS SOVIET PRESS' CHIEF "BAD GUY" ON DEFENSE.

-- SECRETARY SIMON IS THE TARGET OF A PRAVDA COMMENTARY
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(SEPT 27) BY YU. GLUKHOV, WHO CHARGES THAT SIMON, IN A MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT, PROPOSED USING U.S. AGRICULTURAL

EXPORTS AS A LEVEL AGAINST OPEC MEMBERS.

-- IZVESTIYA (SEPT 25) CARRIES A COMMENTARY BY THAT
NEWSPAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KONDRASHOV ASKING
"WHO KILLED LETELIER". THE ARTICLE NOTES THE FORMER
CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S CAREER AND IMPLIES THROUGH THE
MOUTHS OF OTHERS THAT THE CIA/FBI MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

-- PRAVDA (SEPT 26) CARRIES A SHORT ITEM BY A. TOLKUNOV
ON "WHITE ONLY" CLUBS IN THE U.S.
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